

REMARKS

Claims 2-5 and 7-14 remain pending in this application. Claims 2-5 and 7-14 are rejected. Claims 1 and 6 are previously cancelled. Claims 2-5 and 7-14 are amended herein to clarify the invention, to express the invention in alternative wording, to broaden language as deemed appropriate and to address matters of form unrelated to substantive patentability issues.

Applicants herein traverse and respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of the claims cited in the above-referenced Office Action.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for containing subject matter lacking an adequate written description in the specification. Applicants herein respectfully traverse this rejection. The claim has been amended to remove any elements not finding full support in the specification. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of claim 11 are earnestly solicited.

Before discussing the rejections of record based upon cited art, it is believed a brief discussion of the invention and the benefits conferred thereby will be helpful in accenting at least some of the advantages of the claimed invention.

During blood pressure measurement, there may be cases where, for some reason, excess pressure is applied (pressure becomes too high) or pressure causes pain to be experienced in the arm of the user, and the user compelled to evacuate a measurement cuff and stop the taking of the measurement.

Many conventional blood pressure meter devices are such that one key switch is used to alternate between ON and OFF, and particularly in cases of emergency as described above, there may be cases of malfunction, such as starting re-measurement when the user presses a key switch many times for turning OFF. As a result, ON/OFF operations are repeated and the machine actually ends up being turned ON, contrary to the desire of the user.

In such case, if light emitters are each disposed at, or proximate to, a respective one of the user identification keys, determination of the operation state (OFF state) is allowed at a glance, preventing malfunction as described above, and improving safety and comfort.

Additionally, if light emitters are each disposed at, or proximate to, a respective one of identification keys, the relationship between the identification keys and light emitting means can be determined intuitively, without requiring special determination, and in this respect as well, safety can be secured.

Further benefit according to the invention is gained if, as claimed, identification keys, for example, identification keys for two or more persons, are provided, so that separate measurement values for the at least two persons can be stored in separate respective memory regions. Also, some of the stored past blood pressure measurement values of an individual are available as information of a pressure set value. Therefore, the set pressure value at a time of blood pressure measurement of that person can be set to the most suitable value, and this setting can

be applied promptly. Applicants respectfully submit that such approach is not taught or suggested by any of the cited art of record, as discussed in detail below.

Claims 2-4, 7-9 and 11-14 are rejected as obvious over Nakazawa et al. (US 2003/0060721) in view of Villa-Real (US 4,397,317) and further in view of Tampo et al. (US 6,726,632) under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The applicants herein respectfully traverse this rejection. For a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) to be sustained, the differences between the features of the combined references and the present invention must be obvious to one skilled in the art.

The Office Action admits in the Response to Arguments at page 8 therein, that “[i]f the claim was rewritten to say that a first user button corresponds to a first user data, and second user button corresponds to a second user...etc then the prior art of record would no longer meet the limitation ... of user identification keys.” Claim 13 is amended to reflect the substance of these distinctions, and is therefore submitted as defining over the cited art of record. Claim 14 is also similarly amended to clarify “a particular one of the memory regions being addressed in response to manipulation of a corresponding one of said event identification keys that is uniquely associated with said particular one of the memory regions respective data representative of different event conditions is storable.”

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejected claims are not obvious in view of the cited references for the reasons stated above. Reconsideration of the rejections of claims 2-4, 7-9 and 11-14 and their allowance are respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 10 and 12 are rejected as obvious over Nakazawa et al. (US 2003/0060721) in view of Villa-Real (US 4,397,317) and further in view of Tampo et al. (US 6,726,632) and Hickle et al. (US 2003/0135087) under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The applicants herein respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Hickle et al. reference fails to adequately supplement the lacking disclosure of Nakazawa et al. Villa-Real and Tampo. Therefore, a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be sustained, since the combined references fail to disclose all claimed features.

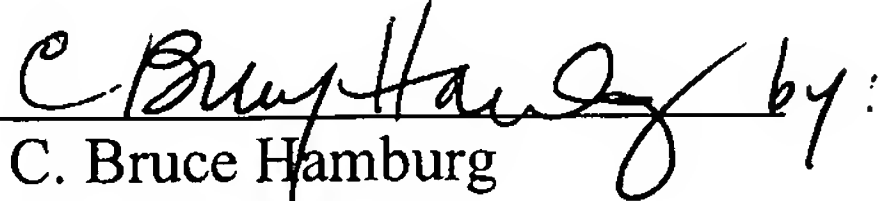
Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejected claims are not obvious in view of the cited references for the reasons stated above. Reconsideration of the rejections of claims 5, 10 and 12 and their allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully request a one (1) month extension of time for responding to the Office Action. Please charge the fee of \$130 for the extension of time to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

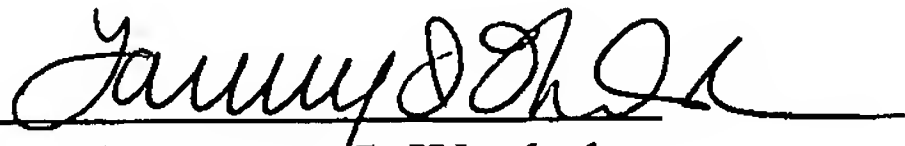
The USPTO is hereby authorized to charge any fee(s) or fee(s) deficiency or credit any excess payment to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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